

Maryland SESAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Early Childhood Intervention & Education Branch
200 W. Baltimore Street, 9th floor, Baltimore, MD 21201
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Rachel London, Esq., Chair

Mary Baskar, Vice Chair

SESAC General Meeting

Johns Hopkins University
Center for Technology in Education
Columbia, Maryland
1:00-4:00 p.m.
September 22, 2011

MINUTES

Attendance: Rachel London, *Chair*, Mary Baskar, *Vice Chair*, Dorie Flynn, Kelly Meissner, Dawn Koplos, Rhonda Creecy

Excused: Eileen Watson, Howard 'Andy' Anderson

Guests: April Kurth

Staff: Marcella Franczkowski (via phone), Sharon West, Donna Riley, Sheréa Makle,

Ms. London opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

I. Welcome/Introductions: Attendees introduced themselves.

II. Membership:

- a. **Officers:** Ms. London opened the floor for nominations. A motion was made to accept the emailed nomination of the current officers to be re-elected. The motion was seconded. A unanimous vote re-elected Rachel London as Chair and Mary Baskar as Vice Chair.
- b. **General Membership:** Ms. London reported that SESAC members who had not met the 50% attendance requirement during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, were notified in writing and asked to inform the Committee of their intent to continue or resign. Several members responded that they were not able to continue as members resulting in several vacancies. The SESAC membership grid, dated 9/2/11, indicates 5 vacant parent slots, and 4 vacant agency slots.
- c. **Membership Survey Results:** Ms. London shared the results of a survey conducted in April 2011 to gather information from current SESAC members about committee participation. A summary of the results is provided in the meeting packet. Sample results include:
 - 62% of respondents found scheduled meetings difficult to attend.
 - 54% of respondents would be more likely to participate via technology.
 - 31% of respondents suggested changing the structure/tone of the meeting to better meet participant needs.

Attendees discussed the survey results and were invited to provide additional comments and suggestions to the Chair and/or Vice Chair.

Ms. London and Ms. Baskar encouraged the nomination of individuals who could commit to attending meetings and actively participating in the work of the SESAC. She shared that the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) is focusing on a strategy to recruit members of local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICC) as a way to engage informed, active, and committed parents. Revised SESAC Nomination and Application forms are provided in the meeting packet.

III. MSDE Parent Survey-Special Education: Ms. West shared results from the MSDE Parent Survey for the 2010/2011 school year.

- a) The MSDE Parent Survey is a tool used to collect data for OSEP **Indicator 8–Parent Involvement (Special Education Preschool and School Age)**. The 2010/2011 survey was disseminated to families of children who received special education and related services. The survey was made available in print and online. The response rate was slightly lower than the previous school year. The survey included 25 core questions recommended by the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring (NCSEAM), and 6 demographic questions.
- b) Ms. West led the group in a review of the NCSEAM Item Bank to determine if other questions might better represent how families view their involvement. The group discussed questions 1-25 of the Parent Survey and recommended that future surveys be limited to 25 questions total. The following suggestions were recorded for consideration.
 - Keep question #1
 - Revisit #2
 - Keep #3 as is
 - Revisit #4
 - Keep #5 as is
 - Revisit #6
 - Revisit #7
 - Delete #8
 - Revisit #9
 - Revisit #10
 - Revisit #11
 - Delete #12
 - Revisit #13
 - Keep #14 as is
 - Revisit #15
 - Revisit #16
 - Keep #17 as is
 - Delete 18
 - Keep #19 as is
 - Revisit #20
 - Revisit #21
 - Keep #22 as is
 - Revisit #23 (perhaps combine with #21)
 - Keep #24 as is
 - Revisit #25

- c) An additional suggestion was made to try to fit the survey on one double-sided sheet. Ms. London agreed to keep track of items for which a decision was not made during the group discussion, share information via email, and collect feedback for next steps.

IV. SPP/APR Indicators Update (4A, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13)

Ms. Riley presented a draft Preliminary Status Report on Part B FFY 2010 (2010-2011) APR, Indicator Performance At-A-Glance, September 22, 2011. (The report is available in the meeting packet.) She agreed to provide additional SPP/APR reports to the SESAC Executive Team as well as the SPP/APR At-A-Glance.

V. Assistant State Superintendent's Update

Ms. Franczkowski provided the following updates via phone.

- The Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS) drafted a revised mission statement to be more aligned with the national vision. The draft mission reads: The DSE/EIS “provides leadership, support and accountability for results to local school systems, public agencies and stakeholders through a seamless, comprehensive system of coordinated services to children and students with disabilities, birth through 21, and their families.” The mission would be rolled out at the 2011 Fall Leadership Conference, October 12-14, 2011, in Ocean City.
- The 2011 conference theme, “The Power of Innovative Leadership for Results,” was crafted with an understanding that if we continue to do work in the same way without innovating we will not see improved results. Conference highlights included:
 - Presentations by Dr. Sadusky Sadusky, *Interim State Superintendent of Schools*, Dr. Alexa Posny, *Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)*, and Melody Musgrove, *Director of the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)*.
 - A “State-of-the-State presentation by Ms. Franczkowski outlining Maryland’s progress and gaps, and providing strategies for innovative leadership for results
 - The launch of MSDE’s new website, Maryland source for special education/early intervention information in Maryland, birth-21, featuring innovative technologies. (A partnership of MSDE and the Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education)
 - Breakout sessions in 4 strands, including one strand on empowering families.
 - Motivational presentation for motivation for innovative change in leadership.
- Leadership Meetings
 - Ms. Franczkowski will soon begin holding all-day meetings to include local directors of Special Education and directors of Early Intervention and Preschool programs. In the morning local infants and toddlers and preschool coordinators leaders will meet. During lunch 0-5 and 6-21 will network and discuss issues. Then in the afternoon local directors of special education will meet.
- Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant
 - The DSE/EIS is collaborating with the Division of Early Childhood at MSDE to prepare the grant.
- ECIE
 - Extended IFSP Option implemented Feb 1, 2010. 72% of families chose to stay in EI model under an IFSP. The grant ends this year. \$2.1 million will be given to continue a component of the Extended Option. Rachel London represented the

SESAC on the workgroup that decided how to continue the model. Local programs will be able to apply for these funds. October 4, a public hearing is being held to solicit feedback on the proposed revised policies and procedures.

- Part C regulations have been made public but not posted.
- Administration
 - Restraint remains prohibited unless it's included on a child's IEP
 - TAB regarding restraint/conclusion will be revised and disseminated with stronger, clearer language.
 - DSE/EIS is collaborating with other MSDE Division on bullying prevention initiatives
 - Disciplinary removal policies and procedures are being reviewed with local school systems.
- Family Support and Interagency
 - A School Psychologists Identification of Emotional Disabilities handbook has been developed a collaborative workgroup of the branch.
 - Proposed legislation on which the DSE/EIS is taking a lead is related to out-of county placements.
 - Ms. Franczkowski now represents the DSE/EIS on the Maryland Children's Cabinet

Ms. Franczkowski invited the SESAC to share agenda items with her to create a dialogue between the Assistant State Superintendent's office and SESAC members.

Ms. London adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.